

■ **FREE RIDE OFFERED ON NEW DEL. 1:** The Delaware Department of Transportation and the governor's Bicycle Council have announced a Free Ride on Del. 1 in the Odessa area on Sunday. The event provides people an opportunity to walk, bicycle or rollerblade on part of the new Del. 1, which is not yet open to vehicular traffic.

The Free Ride will take place between noon and 3 p.m. The new roadway will be accessed from Del. 299, and the main parking facility will be at Middletown High School. Buses will be available to shuttle walkers from the high school to the new road. Bicyclists ages 12 and over are encouraged to park at the high school and ride their bikes from the school to Del. 1.

The shoulder of Del. 299 will be coned off to separate bikers from the travel lane, and DelDot operations staff will be on hand to assist in traffic control. Participants with younger children on bicycles, and persons with disabilities, will be permitted to park in the new Park and Ride lot on Del. 299, adjacent to the entrance ramps for the new road.

The portion of Del. 1 open for the Free Ride is approximately eight miles in length, and provides a chance to cross both the Appoquinmink River and Drawyer's Creek on new bridges. Basic sanitary facilities, emergency services and water will be provided, but no food vendors will be on site.

There is no cost for the event, but participants will be required to sign a liability release waiver. Commemorative water bottles will be available to the first 1,500 participants. For more information contact DelDot's External Affairs office at 800-652-5600 or the Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator at 760-2453.